1; Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1b,

Sociological Background

HISTORICAL SETTING

174 Early history. Scholars have not yet reached a decision about the prehistory of the Estonians. The most common theory of linguists is that the Estonians lived together with other Finno-Ugric peoples at the bend of the Volga until about 2500 B. C., when the separation of the Hungarians, Khanty and Mansi supposedly took place. After the further detachment of the Komi and the Udmurts around 1000 B. C., and of the Mordvins and Cheremis around 200 B. C., the Western Finns (Finns, Estonians, Karelians, Livonians, Vepsians, and Votes) started to move westward until they finally settled along the shores of the Baltic Sea, south of the Gulf of Finland, and on the shores of the Gulf of Riga. This migration

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

174 is supposed to have been completed by the beginning of the Christian era. Soon after that the Finns migrated to Finland and settled the area north of the Gulf of Finland.

172 Archeologists, however, disagree with this linguistic theory. Their excavations have brought to light evidence that the present Estonian area was occupied long before the birth of Christ and that no change of inhabitants occurred around the beginning of the Christian era. According to theories of the Estonian archeologist Dr. R. Indreko, the Finno-Ugric peoples came to the East Baltic region from Central Europe about 7000 B. C., after the glacial period, in the early Stone Age. They were reindeer hunters and later they became fishermen also. Some of these peoples later migrated eastward and settled by the Volga and the Ural Mountains,

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1b,

Sociological Background

HISTORICAL SETTING

101 The votes call themselves vad'd'alain (plural vad'd'alaizet). This name comes from the word vad'd'a 'wedge,' and originally probably designated the wedge-shaped area inhabited by the Votes. In Russian chronicles and old documents the Votes are usually called vod' (from this the adjectives vodskii, votskii) and vozhane, later also by the names chudja and voty. The older German designation for the Votes is Watländer, the later one Woten (plural). In English the names Votes and Vodians are used (the adjectives Votic or Vodian).

Votes are closely related to the Estonians, Finns, Karelians, Vepsians and Livonians. [197] The language of all of these nationalties form the so-called Balto-Finnic group, which is a subgroup of the Finno-Ugric family of languages. 101 The original home of the Finno-Ugric people is ● 174 considered to have been somewhere along the middle course of the Volga River. In the course of time, the forefathers of the Balto-Finns have moved westward. In the last centuries of the pre-Christian era they were in contact with the Baltic peoples (that is with the ancestors of the Latvians, Lithuanians and Old Prussians), and later with the Germanic peoples, as the loan words indicate. During these Germanic Balto-Finnic relations the Balto-Finns must have been to the east of the Gulf of Finland

101 and Peipus Lake. There this relatively
174 homogeneous group disintegrated and various nationalities started to migrate to their present areas. This occurred probably in the first centuries A.D.

The Votes, following the Finns, moved toward the north and settled the area which is now known under the name of Ingermanland. In ancient times the Votes were a powerful nation. They probably belonged to those Balto-Finnic tribes, which, according to Nestor's chronicle, participated under the name of chud' in the foundation of the Russian state in 862 A.D.
175 The first explicit information on the Votes originates from the time of the Grand Prince Jaroslav (died in 1054); in one of his statutes the Votic (votshkaia) region is mentioned as belonging to the Novgorod possessions. The belonging to Novgorod was at that time, however, only a pious wish of Novgorod. This appears clearly from the fact that the Votes helped the Polotsk prince Vseslav when he, with his armies, in 1069 lay siege to Novgorod. Vseslav suffered a defeat, and, according to the chronicler, "this was a great loss to the Votes, for great masses of them fell." When Novgorod in the twelfth century became stronger, the Votes more and more came under its sphere of influence. In cases of need the Votes applied to the Novgorodians also for help. This happened, for instance, in 1149 when a thousand Finns from Häme undertook a military expedition to the Votic area. Then the Votes, helped by 500 Novgorodians, hewed down the Finns to the very last man.

It was not just the wars but also the